

Roads soft, sandy gumbo. Made 53 mi. in 16½ hrs. Arrived Ogallala, Nebr. 11 p.m.

Aug. 6

Departed Ogallala, 7:30 a.m. Class B #414672 started out with leaky radiator tube. 20 mi. west of Ogallala at 10:15 a.m. Mack #51481 got stuck on sandy hill. ~~Riker~~ Riker #415011 attempted to tow Mack over the top but failed. Tractor was then unloaded and Macks #4, #5 and #51481 towed over three sand hills. Rikers towed each other. F.W.D.'s made it on 2nd speed, then towed Packard over the top, which, in turn, helped another Packard thru soft spot near top of grade. Then 5 or more trucks were chained together and negotiated the sand in that way. F.W.D. #415766 backed one Class B out of small sand hole at bottom of hill and then made this bad sandy hill in 2nd speed, towing 2-wheel kitchen trailer. A Class B truck tried this hill with another 2-wheel kitchen trailer, but failed to make it. Militor pulled 10 trucks thru this sand hole. Camped in open field east of Big Springs, where Red Cross Canteen Service furnished lemonade and cigarettes. Capt. Gurvine reported for duty as Mess Officer. Fair and warm. Fair sandy roads. Made 22 miles in 6 hrs. Arrived Big Springs, Nebr. 1:30 p.m.

Aug. 7

Departed Big Springs, 6:30 a.m. One mile from camp White Staff Observation Car #111506 had to stop on account engine missing badly, due to dirty spark plug. Otherwise no mechanical or road troubles until Class B #414673 had valve trouble 5 miles west of Dix Station and motor was found to be hot. Muffler was removed at this point. Just as this truck pulled into camp, the paulin burst into flames at the lower right front corner, believed to be due to lighted cigarette butt, carelessly tossed into body. There was no fire extinguisher on this truck, but Pyrenes from other commissary trucks were used to extinguish the flames. The paulin and some personal effects of the men were destroyed, but the cargo consisting of commissary stores, was saved. The body was slightly scorched. Personnel entertained at luncheon by Union Pacific and Commercial Hotels in Sidney. One truck damaged a sheet steel drain culvert. Rain storm ater Convoy went into camp in Fair Grounds, southeast of Kimball. Good location and irrigation ditch passing thru furnished bathing water. Commercial Club gave dinner-dance for officers at the Wheat Growers Hotel. Fair and warm. Good gravel roads. Made 86 miles in 11 1/6 hrs. Arrived Kimball, Nebr. 5:40 p.m.

Aug. 8

Departed Kimball, 6:30 a.m. At Bushnell Macks #51481 and #51483 and Riker #415011 had some difficulty in negotiating soft sand under railroad bridge, but managed to pull themselves thru. Heavy rains during night had softened road in low places. Class B #414673 broke valve tappet roller. Entered Cheyenne in a driving rain of an hour's duration, followed by clearing and much lower temperature, which made overcoats necessary to comfort. The effect of altitudes exceeding 6000' very noticeable in connection with the starting and operation